



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0820 RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

Department's Position:

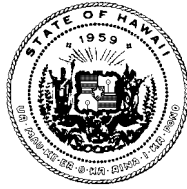
The Department of Education recognizes the importance of early childhood education, as well as its impact upon our children's future outcomes and the state's economic growth. However, we are unable to fully support this measure and offer the following comments.

Our mission is to ensure Hawaii's public school students receive a quality education. As such, the Department is tasked with providing education for students in grades K-12 and its expertise and priorities lies therein. Furthermore, our current infrastructure with regards to early childhood recruitment, certification, capacity-building and resources to lead and support early learning is limited and underdeveloped.

The Department recognizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) as possessing the early childhood expertise, including but not limited to comprehensive early childhood development and learning. Therefore, any early childhood programs should be under the management and operational oversight of the EOEL.

We respectfully request that the language in this measure (p.19, line 1, Section 2 (1)) be revised to read, as follows: "Be provided through department of education public schools and public charter schools the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) who may partner with the department of education,...."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education

The Honorable Isaac W. Choy, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 820 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 4, 2015; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 820 is to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through the Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. DHS defers to the Department of Education (DOE) and the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL).

Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2013, established the existing child care assistance program called Preschool Open Doors (POD) as the statewide school readiness program. Per Act 169, SLH 2013, DHS administers the POD program.

The POD program serves low to moderate income families whose children will be eligible for kindergarten in the following school year. The POD program provides eligible families with a subsidy to assist with payments to DHS licensed child care facilities, such as preschools. Families whose children are enrolled in the prekindergarten classrooms on DOE public school campuses or at public charter schools are not eligible for POD program services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: HB 820 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education
DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2015
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the intent of House Bill 820, Relating to Public Early Childhood Education, which would establish an early learning prekindergarten program to be provided through the Department of Education schools and charter schools.

The Commission recently was awarded a \$14.8 million federal grant from the Preschool Development Grants Program to support the creation of high-quality pre-kindergarten classrooms at 18 charter schools across the state over the next four years. This grant focuses on providing pre-kindergarten to underserved communities with large high-needs populations. Over the years of implementing the grant, the Commission plans to work with the schools, private funders, the Legislature, and other stakeholders on program sustainability beyond the life of the grant. HB 820 offers one potential path to program sustainability.

The Commission supports the intent of this measure but would like to offer a comment to provide greater clarity on its applicability to public charter schools. As drafted, subsection 302L- (h) (page 21, lines 10-17) currently indicates that the public charter schools themselves shall give priority to schools that serve high populations of underserved or at-risk children. We request that be amended to read as follows:

“The department of education and any public charter school existing pursuant to chapter 302D, may use available classrooms for public preschool programs statewide.

The department of education shall give priority to schools that serve high populations of underserved or at-risk children. The office shall give priority to public charter schools that serve high populations of underserved or at-risk children. Preschool classrooms established pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any classrooms used for the pre-plus program established pursuant to section 302L-1.7."

This will appropriately allow the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to coordinate and prioritize charter school preschool programs administered through this chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB820

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Abalos	Hawaii State Teachers Association	Support	No



OFFICERS		DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President		Guy Archer	Brien Hallett	PO. Box 23404
Chuck Huxel, Vice-President		Juliet Begley	Jan Lubin	Honolulu
Fritz Fritschel, Treasurer		Alan Burdick	Stephen O'Harrow	Hawai'i 96823
Karin Gill, Secretary		Josh Frost	Jim Olson	Marsha Schweitzer (Alt)

February 1, 2015

Chair Rep. Roy Takumi and Education Committee Members

Re: HB 820 Early Childhood Education
Hearing on Feb. 4, 2015

Dear Rep. Takumi and Members of the Committee:

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 820 as we acknowledge that early education is one of the best investments a government can make. Educators know that a good start at the pre-K level will do a lot to boosting the performance of our children for the rest of their educational careers. A good early start to education also pays off in the long run through reduced suicide and crime rates and higher incomes. In the short term this is an expensive proposal, but in the long term it is not.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

TO: Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, February 04, 2015
PLACE: Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: HOUSE BILL 820, RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 82. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in support of this bill which would establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools. We have been committed to advancing early learning across the state and have served in a leadership role with the state's Early Learning Advisory Board which unequivocally supports early learning.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and three- and-four-year-olds at preschool sites statewide. In 2004, the Early Childhood Education division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of its Hi'ilani Early Childhood Collaborative program. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other preschools and provide funding for child-family interaction programs that have filled a great need in rural communities.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

Testimony to the House Committee on Education and Committee on Higher Education

**Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 820 RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chairs Takumi and Choy, Vice Chairs Ohno and Ichiyama, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 820, which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The establishment of the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning is another necessary and positive step in establishing a foundation for early learning programs in our state.

The Chamber believes that this measure must be in place to provide services to children before they enter kindergarten. Providing family child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed delivery early learning system is critical in ensuring school readiness of Hawaii's children prior to entering kindergarten.

Also, the Chamber strongly believes that focusing on early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it is imperative to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawai'i showed that for every \$1 Hawai'i invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state will receive a return of \$4.20. This is not only about return of investment, but in providing for our employees and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938
Telephone (808) 543-2202
Fax (808) 543-2222
www.auw.org

February 3, 2015

To: Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Issac W. Choy, Chair, Committee on Higher Education

Re: HB 820 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education – **SUPPORT**
Hearing: Wednesday, February 4, 2015; Room 309; 2:00 PM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports HB 820 which establishes an Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program provided through the Department of Education and public charter schools.

HB 820 is important because it lays the foundation for a universal preschool program which will enable all of Hawaii's keiki to have a solid preschool experience prior to starting kindergarten.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB 820 is the first step to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 820.

Sincerely,

Cindy Adams
President & Chief Executive Officer



February 3, 2015

TO: Chair Roy Takumi
Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno
Members of the House Education Committee

FROM: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director

RE: **Support for HB 820: RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports HB 820**, which would establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten program. GBA has been a strong supporter of efforts to expand access to early learning opportunities for almost 20 years; HB 820 will provide the foundation on which to continue to build the early education services our kids need and deserve.

Last year, \$3,000,000 was included in the supplemental budget to launch the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten program in 18 public elementary schools across the state. This measure solidifies the program and allows for much needed expansion.

There is no debate that early learning opportunities have long lasting positive influence on children. We know, for example, that over 85% of a child's brain is developed by the age of five. Moreover, we know that almost 50% of Hawaii's four-year-olds receive little or no formal school readiness experience before entering kindergarten. Despite positive advances over the past two years, Hawaii still remains far behind other states in providing early childhood education. Ultimately, this means that our Department of Education (DOE) system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of early learning experience. By investing in our children early, we help save our DOE time and money.

This bill would also ensure that Hawaii is able to compete for federal funds for early learning programs. Most importantly, this bill would support thousands of families across Hawaii, who desperately want to send their keiki to preschool, but simply can't afford it.

GBA strongly supports the passage of this measure.

Sincerely,

Deborah Zysman
Executive Director

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

February 4, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB820, which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition has been a strong advocate for early learning since our inception in 2010. We have supported early learning legislation for the past few years, and have been particularly concerned about the late-born four year olds, who have not been able to attend public Kindergarten since the 2014-2015 year. Therefore, we support HB820, which establishes an early learning prekindergarten program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning. We like that the program focuses on four-year olds with priority to underserved or at-risk children. We also like that the program incorporates high quality standards and developmentally appropriate practices, which includes attention to family engagement, the foundation of our Coalition. Further, we are encouraged that the bill incorporates points on the program implementation, specifically, supporting teacher professional development, coordination with other agencies to support children and data collection to monitor the progress of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
*Kaho'omiki
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 820, RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

House Committee on Education

Hon. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

Hon. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 820, relating to public early childhood education.

As noted by an MIT working group on the topic, investments in early childhood education pay dividends for the formal preparation of children as learners and future citizens, while also benefiting taxpayers and boosting economic vitality. Research on the benefits of quality pre-kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs. Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Preschool brings an approximately \$4.20 return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services, especially in terms of longterm life skills. At the national level, every dollar spent on early childhood education saves taxpayers up to \$13.00 in future costs, including lowered healthcare costs, reduced rates of educational remediation and prison incarceration, and higher productivity. Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not only helps working parents fulfill their responsibilities, but is essential for building a 21st century labor force.

Early childhood education is especially important for at-risk students. According to the High Scopes/Perry Preschool longitudinal study, at-risk children with access to quality early learning programs were 20 percent more likely to graduate from high school, 14 percent more likely to be employed, and 24 percent less likely to have been incarcerated by age 40 than peers without such access. As the Department of education continues to streamline educational accountability, particularly through the possible institution of merit pay and high-stakes

evaluations for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are “classroom ready,” meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success.

Utilizing public school resources for the provision of early learning will place our children's futures in the hands of the state's most qualified education professionals, namely our certificated and licensed public school teachers. Additionally, public early learning programs will not set a nefarious precedent for the future adoption of school voucher programs at the elementary and secondary school level. Finally, this proposal does not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions, ensuring that the state will not become ensnared in costly litigation because of a misappropriation of funds to a program that promotes a specific religious viewpoint. Public early learning will, instead, include research-based, developmentally appropriate, secular practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Board of Directors

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Jeeyun Lee
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Darcie Scharfenstein
Alan Shinn

TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 309

Testimony in support of HB820, Relating to Public Early Childhood Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB820, which would establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including low-income families with young children in the home.

Education can provide a leveling of socio-economic impacts experienced by children from low-income families. These families are dealing with the challenges of Hawaii's high cost of living realities and are focused on providing the necessities, like food and housing. As a result children from low-income families are less likely to have the "extra" resources necessary to access high quality early childhood education programs. As studies have clearly shown, investing in a high-quality early childhood education will result in higher levels of educational attainment and stronger social and economic well-being. A strong start with early education provides a bridge to a different future for these children.

An Early Learning Prekindergarten Program would provide children in low-income families with access to high-quality educational programming that would otherwise be out of reach. Without this access children from low-income families are less likely to have the strong start to their education that will result in providing a bridge to a successful college experience/career that will change their family's financial/social tree for generations to come.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support for this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.

HB820

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. J.L. Walton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This Bill is a Gateway for "Common Core" and our children aren't common. There is no lawful role for the federal government in education. It's prohibited by; General Education Provision Act of 1965; Department of Education Organization Act of 1979; and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. I strongly OPPOSE.

Testimony To
The House Committee on Education

Wednesday, February 4, 2015
2:00 pm
Room 309

Re: HB 820 – Related to Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-chair Ohno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a recently retired Head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Over the past 10 years, I have served as a member of the Early Learning Task Force, the Early Learning Council and the Early Learning Advisory Board. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 820, A Bill for an Act Relating to Early Childhood Education which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program.

The bill seeks to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) prekindergarten program to be administered by the EOEL and provided through public schools, including charter schools. Both my own experience as a Head of School and the abundance of research on school success confirm the value of high quality early childhood education for all children. Benefits are noted in school readiness, general school success and long-term quality of life and contributions as community members. In addition, dollars invested in early education pay dividends for communities as a whole by reducing costs for remediation in schools, reduction in crime and welfare expenses along with reduced homelessness and substance abuse. A study in Hawaii completed in 2008 by Good Beginnings Alliance determined that for every dollar invested in early learning a four dollar plus return could be expected.

This bill provides for a prekindergarten program built around widely accepted standards of high quality which are research-based, developmentally appropriate and identified with better outcomes for children. Recognizing that early learning for our at-risk children can help to lower the achievement gap by improving school readiness, I would hope that passage of this bill would be a first step in building broader access opportunities. We know that all children regardless of family income can benefit from early childhood education. There is growing concern that our lower middle income families will not be able to provide an early learning experience for their children unless a statewide system is implemented. Such a system will be voluntary and also culturally sensitive offering choices to families for placement of their children. Let this be a building block for future growth.

I urge the committee to consider the bill favorably.

February 4, 2015

To: Representative Roy Tokumi, Chair House Committee on Education and Members of the House
Committee on Education

From: GG Weisenfeld
Wimmie Wong Lui

RE: HB 820 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education

Chair Tokumi Members of the House Committee on Education:

I along with Wimmie Wong Lui am presenting testimony regarding HB 820 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education whose purpose is to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through the Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

We are both private citizens who are interested in advancing early learning in our state.

We are pleased with the EOEL Prekindergarten program that began serving children during the 2014-15 school year. The teachers have been able to implement high-quality standards, including using individual child assessments, engaging families, and aligning their curriculum with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, all of which are linked to positive child outcomes.

We believe that the Executive Office on Early Learning should administer the program as the services are provided through the Department of Education public schools and charter schools. We therefore support the public early childhood education program described in HB 820. We urge the committee to pass this bill moving it forward for further consideration.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and concerns.

GG Weisenfeld
193 Pauahilani Place
Kailua HI 96734

Wimmie Wong Lui
724 Prospect Street
Honolulu HI 96813